

CITY OF ROCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

of the

PORT OF ROCHESTER

1957





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G. PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1957.

I. Staff.

TABLE A.

No change.

II. Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year.

TABLE B.

SHIPS FROM	NUMBER	TONNAGE	NUMBER INSPECTED		NUMBER OF SHIPS REPORTED AS HAVING, OR HAVING HAD DURING THE VOYAGE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE ON BOARD
			BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	BY THE PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR	
Foreign Ports	412	276,042	9	360	Nil
Coastwise	609	294,622	2	556	Nil
Total	1,021	570,664	11	916	Nil

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the year.

TABLE C.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Number of Passengers INWARDS) Only passenger traffic in Port is day trips.
Number of Passengers OUTWARDS) during Summer to adjacent seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC.

Principal IMPORTS. Wood pulp, timber, china clay, coal, crude oil, flour, wheat, fertilisers, animal feeding stuffs.

Principal EXPORTS. Cement, plasterboard, bitumen, creosote, diesel and gas oil.

(c) PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Holmsund, Valvi, Kasko, Kotka, Kragero, Arendal, Oslo, Faeker, Hammelvik, Many-luoto, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Sumdsvald, Quebec, Clark City, Las Pedros, Indian Bay.

IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

Not applicable to this Port.

V. Water Supply.

1. No change.

2. REPORTS OF TESTS FOR CONTAMINATION.

24 samples of the Chatham and District Water Supply, and 26 samples of the Strood Water Supply were taken for bacteriological examination.
The results proved them to be good waters.

3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES.

No change.

4. NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITION OF WATER BOATS, AND POWERS OF CONTROL BY THE
AUTHORITY.

No change.

VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

No change.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

No change.

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

No change.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

No change.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR:—

- (a) Hospital accommodation)
- (b) Surveillance) No change.
- (c) Cleansing and disinfection)

VII. Smallpox.

1. Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent:—

Long Reach Hospital, Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.

2. Transport of smallpox cases to hospital.

This is provided by the London County Council Ambulance Service. Tel. Waterloo 3311.

Application is made by telephone and written confirmation sent to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, London.

3. Consultants Available.

Dr. J.P. Marsden) River Hospitals, Joyce Green, Dartford.
Dr. W.J. Coughlan) Tel. Dartford 3231.

4. Laboratory Diagnosis Facilities.

Specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Colindale Avenue, Colindale, London, N.W.9.

VIII. Venereal Disease.

No change.

IX. Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

TABLE D.

CATEGORY	DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES DURING THE YEAR PASSENGERS CREW	NUMBER OF SHIPS CONCERNED
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	—	— —	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	— —	—
Cases landed from other ships	—	— —	—

X. Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

The bulk of the shipping is from Scandinavian and North American Ports and malaria is not generally met with in the Port of Rochester; there have been no cases during the year.

XI. Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No infected or suspected vessels have arrived during the year.

XII. Measures taken against rodents in ships from foreign Ports.

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

As a routine Deratization or Deratization Exemption Certificates are examined. Further course of action is determined as a result of such inspection. When inspecting crews' quarters etc., a general enquiry is usually enough to discover the presence of rats on board, some seamen complain very readily if they know of rats on board the ship.

Cargo workers are a good source of information. The trade in which the vessel has been engaged since her last Deratization, or Deratization Exemption Certificate was issued is an important factor in determining what further inspection should be carried out. Cargoes of wood pulp and pulp wood have little attraction for rats and vessels engaged constantly in this trade are not often infested; if rats are found they are generally confined to a peak or store room and are not distributed throughout the ship.

On the other hand, a ship that has been employed for some time in carrying grain, or has carried out a long trip with such a cargo, merits further investigation particularly if her rat certificate is some months old. Such cargoes at present, do not arrive in this Port but occasionally large vessels, which have carried such cargoes, arrive empty to load cement.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS.

There is no rodent operator permanently on Port work but, in all cases where it is deemed necessary, the shore rodent operator is employed in order to obtain specimens of rats for bacteriological examination.

(3) DERATIZATION OF SHIPS.

For the issue of International Deratization Certificates, an arrangement exists under Article 4 of the Regulations whereby the local Port Health Inspector carries out the inspection and forwards the report to the London Port Health Authority for issue of the Certificate. If it should be necessary to derat a ship by fumigation, the firm employed would be that approved by the London Authority. In other cases of deratting, poisons, traps, sulphur and varnish boards are the methods in use. Deratting Exemption Certificates are issued by the Port of Rochester.

When inspecting a vessel for the issue of an International Sanitary Convention Certificate the inspection is carried out as required by the regulations governing the issue of such a Certificate. The whole vessel from peaks, holds, and engine room to chart and wireless rooms is inspected and report is made on harbourage specifying the particular harbourage found in each compartment.

(4) RAT-PROOFING OF SHIPS.

There are no vessels, other than naval vessels, built in this Port and measures concerning rat-proofing are confined to dealing with existing rat-proofing which has suffered damage on board vessels in service, and inspecting rat-proofing on the smaller vessels undergoing repair and refit in local repair yards.

A proportion of the rats caught (if any) in the vicinity of the river is sent, as a routine, for bacteriological examination.

During the year no rats were caught.

TABLE E.

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

CATEGORY	NUMBER
Black rats)	
Brown rats)	
Species not known)	Nil
Sent for examination)	
Infected with Plague)	

TABLE F.

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

NO. OF DERATTING CERTIFICATES ISSUED					NO. OF DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED	TOTAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED
AFTER FUMIGATION WITH		AFTER TRAPPING	AFTER POISONING	TOTAL		
HON	OTHER FUMIGANT (STATE METHOD)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	43	43

In addition 4 Rodent Control Certificates were issued.

XIII. Inspection of ships for Nuisances.

TABLE G.

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS		NOTICES SERVED		RESULT OF NOTICES
		STATUTORY NOTICES	OTHER NOTICES	
British Vessels	526	—	19	18 complied
Foreign Vessels	390	—	39	38 complied
River Craft	200	—	11	11 complied

XIV. Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

No change.

XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

No change.

XVI. Miscellaneous.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No change.

RIVER SAMPLES.

15 samples of river water were submitted for bacteriological examination which showed evidence of recent faecal contamination but no pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

CASES OF SICKNESS.

2 Septic wound
2 Boils
1 Pains in legs
1 Broken leg
1 Dental treatment
3 Influenza colds

1 Swollen gland in armpit
1 Lumbago
1 Stomach ulcer
2 Asian Flu
1 Feverish Cold

FOOD INSPECTION.

Cargoes of wheat, potatoes, flour, tinned milk, lemons, maize flour and onions, totalling 138 were examined.

207 bags of maize flour were damaged during the voyage and were passed for the manufacture of adhesive paste.

MOSQUITOES.

Anti-mosquito measures have continued to be carried out on the local marshes under the direction of the Port Health Inspector. Numerous pools and collections of water have been treated where necessary and practicable. The spraying with D.D.T. has reduced the mosquito nuisance to negligible proportions.

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATION, 1930.

A visit was made to a ship which had a budgerigar aboard and an undertaking was obtained from the owner that the bird would not be taken ashore.



